Revision of Norms for Implementation of National watershed Development Project

1659. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted proposals to the Central Government seeking to revise certain norms which came in the way of effective implementation of the national watershed development programme in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether these proposals have since been approved; and

(c) if not, by what time a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c) 12 model watershed projects under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) were received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for revision. Out of these 12 model watershed projects, 8 were discussed in detail with the State Nodal Officer, NWDPRA and concerned field officers in the first week of October, 1994. The expansion of components and area were agreed to in principle and it was decided that these would be cleared on the receipt of detailed project proposals. The remaining 4 projects could not be discussed as the basic information was not available. It has been decided that a Central Team jointly with State Government Officers would visit these watersheds and finalise the projects.

Waste of Water Resources

1660. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether experts on water management have expressed grave concer at the "criminal waste" of the precious life source in many way in the country and called for its effective utilisation and conservation in agriculture and other fields;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action stressing the need to keep in view the conservation of fertile soil while making use of water for irrigation purpose; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some suggestions were made at a meeting convened by him towards the end of last month to review the functioning of different programmes under the Ministry, particularly, monitoring the performance of command area development programmes and to make release of Central funds to States conditional on the States, fixing proper water rates; and

(d) if so, Government reaction to the above suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Experts have expressed concern on present pattern of water usage and called for its effective utilisation time and again.

(b) Under the centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme, construction of field channels and field drains is taken up based on extensive soil surveys with the aim of ensuring optimum flow of water for irrigation, avoiding waterlogging and salinity and thereby conserving fertile soil while using water for irrigation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The suggestions are being processed.

सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के निर्माण में गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओं की भागीदारी बनाया जाना

1661. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज** : क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार देश में सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के निर्माण में गैर सरकारी संस्थाओं को भागीदार बनाने पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ,

(ग) सितम्बर, 1994 तक कितनी सिंचाई परियोजनाएं निर्माणाधीन थीं और उनकी कुल सिंचाई क्षमता कितनी है ,